

WEST AFRICA

17 Countries

1. Benin
2. Burkina Faso
3. Cape Verde
4. Chad
5. Gambia
6. Ghana
7. Guinea
8. Guinea Bissau
9. Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire)
10. Liberia
11. Mali
12. Mauritania
13. Niger
14. Nigeria
15. Senegal
16. Sierra Leone
17. Togo



- Atlantic Ocean
- Sahel
- Sahara
- Niger River
- Senegal River
- Volta River
- Benue River
- Lake Chad

West Africa

- 1/5th of Africa
- Sahara
- Sahel
- Western Sudan Forests
- General similarities

Geography

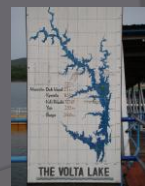
- Wetter and more humid than the north
- Sahel
 - Mauritania, Mali, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad
- Highest point: Mount Cameroon
 - The rest of W. Africa only reaches heights of 900 feet above sea level

Four Main Rivers

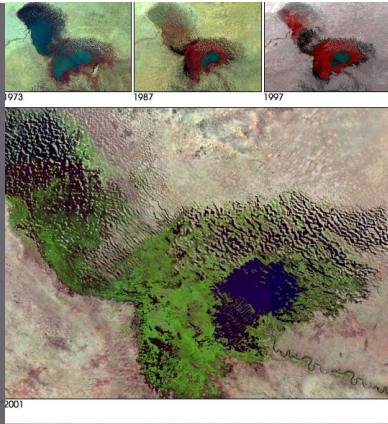
- Senegal River
- Niger River (longest)
 - 10 countries
 - 7.5%
- Volta River
- Benue River

Lakes

- Lake Volta
 - Reservoir that has the largest surface area of any in the world
 - Akosombo Dam
 - Ghana
- Lake Chad
 - Drying up!

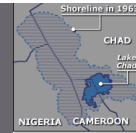


Lake Chad



Lake Chad

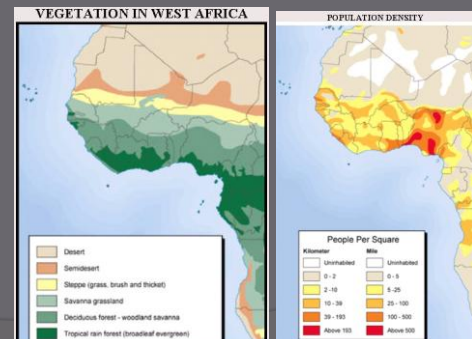
- Very important
 - Chad, Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria
 - 20 million people
 - Fishing
 - Water
- Shrank as much as 95% since 1963
- Human population expansion
- Water Stress
 - Overuse of water without being replenished!
- http://articles.cnn.com/2011-03-02/world/shrinking.lake.chad_1_lake-chad-lake-region-locals?_s=PM:WORLD



Population Density

- Highest populations around areas with abundant rainfall and vegetation
- Slave Trade
- Nigeria
 - Most populated country in West Africa

Geography and Climate



History

- Five sections
 - Prehistory – 12,000 BCE
 - Empires!
 - Internal African Empires
 - Slavery and European Conquest
 - Colonialism
 - Post-Colonial Era

Pre-History

- Drying of West Africa cut the civilizations off from each other
- Legends, traditions, stories
 - Often unreliable!
- Empires
 - Ibos
 - Lineage system, family groups, religion
 - Established major economic system
 - Benin

Three Trading Kingdoms

- Ghana
- Mali
- Songhai

Empires of West Africa

- Wolof
- Ghana
- Mali
- Ashanti
- Yoruba
- Kanem-Bornu
- Songhai

Characterization of Kingdoms

- No separation of power
 - King, counselors, advisors carried out all levels of government
 - Power based on ability to collect revenue and tribute
 - Sovereignty
- Centralized states
 - Concentrated in the hands of few people
 - City-States

What caused the rise and fall of the West African Kingdoms?

What makes a kingdom great?

Most of the information that we have about the early African civilization is based on oral traditions.

Why should this be so?

What advantages are there to oral history as compared to written accounts?

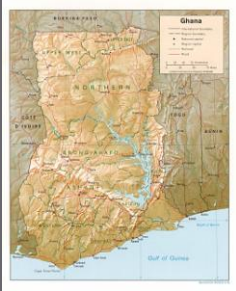
What other historical sources might be found to confirm or dispute oral accounts?



Natural Resources

- Salt
- Gold
- Cloth
- Weapons
- Timber

Ghana on the Map



AD300 to about 1100

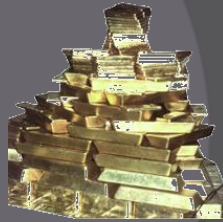
Ghana developed in West Africa between the Niger (Nijhur) and the Gambia Rivers.

The rivers helped Ghana to grow rich because they were used to transport goods and develop trade. Ghana also collected taxes from traders who passed through the kingdom. The people called their nation Wagadu; we know it as Ghana --that was the word for war chief.



The kingdom of Ghana probably began when several clans of the Soninke people of west Africa came together under the leadership of a great king named Dinga Cisse.

Ghana had few natural resources except salt and gold. They were also very good at making things from iron. Ghanaian warriors used iron tipped spears to subdue their neighbors, who fought with weapons made of stone, bone, and wood.



Ghana became a rich and powerful nation, especially when the camel began to be used as a source of transport. Ghana relied on trade and trade was made faster and bigger with the use of the camel.



THE SILENT TRADE

- Salt/gold trade
- savanna areas poor in salt
- Sahara, rich in salt.
- Taghaza, salt mining village
- traders from there carried salt to Jenne and Timbuktu
- Silent trade took place near the Niger river
- Arab traders would lay slabs of salt in neat rows
- pound on drums and invite gold merchants to trade
- ride off on camels

Gold/Salt silent trade

- Gold merchants would arrive
- leave a fair amount of gold and withdraw into hiding
- Arabs would return and if they felt the gold was a fair amount they would take it and leave
- If not, they would beat their drums and a second round of trading would begin
- both groups probably wanted to keep the sources of their goods a secret.

"The King . . . (wears). . . necklaces round his neck and bracelets on his forearms and he puts on a high cap decorated with gold and wrapped in a turban of fine cotton. He (meets people) in a domed pavilion around which stand ten horses covered with gold-embroidered materials...and on his right, are the sons of the (lesser) kings of his country, wearing splendid garments and their hair plaited with gold.

At the door of the pavilion are dogs of excellent pedigree. Round their necks they wear collars of gold and silver, studded with a number of balls of the same metals."

— Al-Bakri

What does this quote tell us about life in Ghana?

Islamic Mosque in Ghana



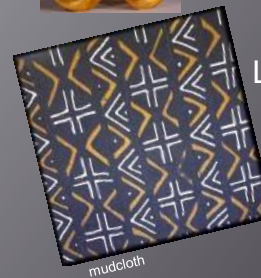
After 700 AD, the religion of Islam began to spread over northern Africa. Muslim warriors came into Ghana and fought with the non-Islamic people there.

This weakened the great civilization of Ghana. Local warriors then decided to break away from the power of Ghana and form their own local kingdoms.

This ended many of the trade networks. This eventually weakened the civilization of Ancient Ghana.

Empire of Mali

- 1235 Mali emerges as a major kingdom
- Located south of Ghana
- This kingdom became important when resources became scarce and trade routes shifted
- This made them wealthy and helped Mali to obtain more power.



MALI

Land of Gold & Griots



Sundiata: The Lion King

- Prince of the Mandinka people, who were conquered by Susu
- In 1230, he conquered the Susu people
- Ruled from 1230-1255
- Under Sundiata, Mali prospered
 - He led the people in conquering and expanding his kingdom to be as great as Ghana had been.



Perhaps the greatest king of Mali was Mansa Musa (1312-1337). He developed the gold and salt trade of Mali and his kingdom became very powerful and rich.



Mansa Musa



MiniFact: Mansa means Emperor or King

- Several kings ruled after Sundiata's death
- Mansa Musa was grandson of Sundiata's half brother
- He became the greatest king of Mali in 1312
- Under Mansa Musa, Mali became a great trading center

Mansa Musa was a Muslim and built many beautiful mosques or Islamic temples in western Africa.



This is the mosque at Djenne in Mali. It's built of mud!

The Hajj

- Mansa Musa was a devout Muslim
- Muslims must make a journey to Mecca called a 'hajj'
- Mansa Musa crossed Africa to reach Mecca
- He took a huge caravan with him in 1324
 - 60,000 servants and followers and 80 camels carrying more than 4,000 pounds of gold to be distributed among the poor. Of the 12,000 servants 500 carried a staff of pure gold.
- After that, everyone knew about the wealth of Mali



Mali

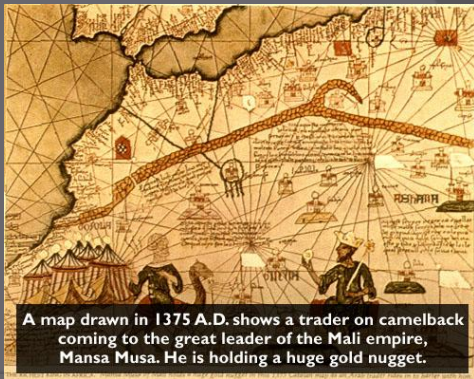
- Five times larger than Ghana!
- Niger and Senegal Rivers
- Gold and Salt
- Trade routes through Middle East, Europe and Asia
- Niani – capital
- Timbuktu – major city



Timbuktu

- A very important city in Mali
 - Center of learning for Muslims
 - Universities and schools
 - Largest trading center in Mali
 - On the Niger River
 - Trade
 - Food
 - Washing





What did Mali trade?

- Gold

The dotted lines are trade routes from Mali to other parts of Africa



What else did they trade?

Camels, the ships of the desert, traveled in caravans bringing to Mali:

- Salt
- Copper
- Ivory
- Cloth
- Kola Nuts
- Slaves
- Books
- Shells



MiniFact: This was before Columbus even sailed to the New World!

Why was Salt Important?



- Mali often traded its gold for salt
- Salt was sometimes more valuable than gold!
- People's bodies need salt to live
 - In the desert heat, salt is lost through perspiration
- Salt was used to preserve food
- Salt was brought in large slabs (coins)

Mali Ancient Religion

- Animistic
- Spirit of the Land
 - Increase the growth and quality of the crops.
 - Still followed by Mali people.
- They believed that the chief of the village had direct contact with the spirit
 - The leader of the village was the secular religious head of the community.
- They believed through this connection that the land would always provide them enough food and resources to trade
- Slowly and gradually, Islam became the dominant religion of the country.
- Several Islamic universities started being established throughout the country and Islam became an integral part of culture, education and trade.

The Griots



This is a 19th century griot of Mali with his instrument

- Storytellers were called Griots or djeli
- They were important people in Mali
- They told the land's history
- Most of what we know about ancient Mali came from the storytellers
- They were advisors to the kings

Griots

- Storytelling
- Call and Response
 - Musical phrases
- Sound Effects
- Pantomime
- Scenery/Props

When Mansa Musa died there were no kings as powerful as he was to follow. The great kingdom of Mali weakened. Eventually a group of people known as Berbers came into the area and other people came up from the south to claim territory that was once part of the kingdom. Although Mali fell, another advanced African kingdom took its place, the kingdom of Songhai.



The Berbers still live in North Africa. This picture, taken in 1893, shows a Berber group.



Sunni Ali saw that the kingdom of Mali was weakening and he led his soldiers to conquer the area.

He began the kingdom of Songhai. He also set up a complex government to rule all the lands he had conquered.

Sunni Ali died in 1492 CE.

His son took over the rule of Songhai but he did not accept Islam as a religion.

One of Sunni Ali's generals, named Muhammad Ture, overthrew the new king and made himself king of Songhai. Ture was a follower of Islam (Muslim) and so he made Islam the religion of his kingdom.

This is a photo of a mosque in western Africa. Many mosques were built of local materials.



Mosques

- Bobo Dioulasso





Songhai remained a rich and strong kingdom under Muhammad Ture's rule. It had a complex government centered in the city of Gao, and great centers of learning. But later rulers were not as powerful.

In the late 1500s, Morocco invaded Songhai to take its rich trade routes. Moroccans had a new weapon, the gun, and the army of Songhai did not. This led to the fall of Songhai.

Moroccans

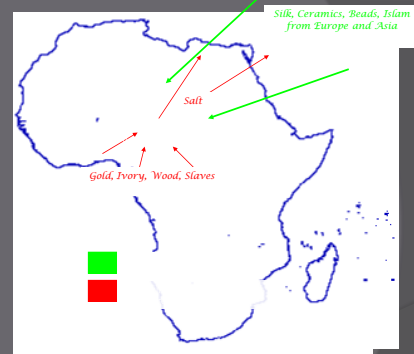
- ◉ Sunni Ali
- ◉ Askia Muhammed continued spread of Islam
- ◉ Judar Pasha – led Moroccans to victory
- ◉ Guns, Germs, and Religion
 - Guns
 - Malaria
 - Islam



This map was created in 1375. The same trade routes were used by the merchants of the Songhai kingdom.

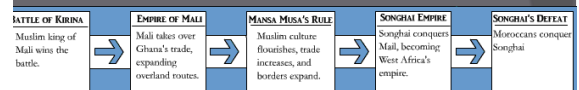
What kinds of pictures do you see on the map and why do you think the mapmaker put them there?

All three kingdoms of West Africa relied on trade for their strength and wealth.



Three Trading Empires

- ◉ Ghana, Mali, Songhai
- ◉ Ghana - AD 800
 - Trade routes across Sahara
 - Gold and salt
- ◉ "Ghana" or war chief
 - Traders began to refer to the area as "Ghana"
- ◉ 1235 – Mali
 - Conquered Ghana
 - Sundiata
 - ◉ Warrior king
 - Mansa Musa
 - ◉ Economics and Trade
- ◉ Around 1400, Songhai replaced Mali
 - Sunni Ali
- ◉ 1591, Moroccan army invades



Colonialism

- ◉ 1472 – Portuguese
 - Trade route to India
 - Encountered Benin empire
- ◉ Pepper, ivory, timber, gold, slaves
 - Ivory Coast, Gold Coast, Slave Coast
- ◉ Niger River
 - Slavery
 - 14-24 million slaves
- ◉ Nigeria

Slavery

- ◉ Europeans transported slaves over long distances under inhumane conditions
 - Slaves in Africa had well-defined rights/privileges
 - Slaves in European societies had little to no rights.
- ◉ European slavery affected four continents and lasted for centuries!
 - Europe, Africa, North America, South America

Slavery

- ◉ Slave trade began on the Atlantic side of Africa
 - Goree Island (20 million slaves)
- ◉ House system
- ◉ Caused warfare between tribes
- ◉ Age of Enlightenment
 - Question of natural rights of man
 - *Somerset v. Knowles* (1772)
 - *An Inquiry into the Wealth of Nations* by Adam Smith (1776)
- ◉ 1807 – Slave trade illegal for British Empire

Relations with Europe after Slavery

- ◉ European countries began to make treaties with chiefs NOT to provide slaves
- ◉ Three strategies
 - Attempted to substitute goods from Africa
 - Took over parts of Africa to get the goods
 - Sent in missionaries to “Westernize” Africa
- ◉ Franco-Prussian War of 1870
 - “Scramble for Africa”

European Imperialism

- ◉ What is imperialism?
- ◉ What is a major reason a country would want to colonize another?

Answer: RESOURCES!

Imperialism: foreign government governs a territory without significant settlement; Formation of an empire

Colonialism: exploiting the resources of the conquered country for the benefit of the conqueror with significant settlement

Return to Colonialism

- Imperialism
- Colonialism
- Goods, not people
- Establish political control
- "Indirect Rule"
 - "Chiefs"

Chiefs

- Musa Mburi — a village elder — remembered,
 - Before the coming of Europeans we had no chiefs, but when they came they installed chiefs. When they waged wars against any village, the person that stayed behind and did not run away was installed the chief.
- Another elder recalled,
 - When asked who was their Chief, the people sometimes put forward a man who was the most important man in their village; sometimes (most often) they just looked blank; and sometimes they put forward the village idiot, to see what happened to him.
- The new chiefs became rich and powerful but, for the average native, colonialism brought forced labor, the loss of land, and taxation.

Involvement in World Wars

- World War I
 - Nigeria
- "World War I awakened the political consciousness of colonial people"
 - Ideas of liberty and freedom
- 1918, the first Pan-African Congress issued a resolution:
 - The natives of Africa must have the right to participate in the government as fast as their development permits, in conformity with the principle that the government exists for the natives, and not the natives for the government.

Colonial Relations

- Great Depression
 - Really hurt Africa!
- World War II
 - Nigerians were called to support Great Britain
- Atlantic Charter (FDR and Winston Churchill)
 - "the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live."
- Nigerian Trades Union Congress
- October 1, 1970
 - Political Crisis

Legacy of Colonization

- Political Instability
- Modern Borders
 - No consideration for ethnic/linguistic groups

Nigeria



Religions

- ◉ Islam
- ◉ Christianity (Nigeria, Ghana)
- ◉ Indigenous Religious influence (**syncretism**)
 - Allegiance to clan's god
- ◉ African traditional religion
- ◉ Griot
 - West African historian
 - Poet, praise-singer, musician



◉ Great Mosque of Djenné



Games/Sports/Music

- ◉ Oware
- ◉ Soccer
 - World Cup!
- ◉ Genres
 - Mbalax
 - Jazz, soul, rock
 - Highlife
 - Fuji
 - Afrobeat



- ◉ Kente
- ◉ Boubou – attire
- ◉ Djembe drum
- ◉ Kora
 - Harp-lute



West Africa Today: ECOWAS

- ◉ Economic Community of West African States
 - All countries except Mauritania
- ◉ Treaty of Lagos
 - Promote region's economy
- ◉ West African Monetary Union

Stateless Societies

- ◉ Whereas old kingdoms were centralized, today many countries are *decentralized*
- ◉ Decentralization ruled by elders
 - “Democracies of age”
- ◉ Igbo of Southeast Nigeria

Problems of West Africa

- ◉ Sierra Leone
 - 31% literacy rate
 - Civil wars
- ◉ Ghana
 - Economic

Map Review

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ◉ Porto Novo, Benin | ◉ Monrovia, Liberia |
| ◉ Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso | ◉ Bamako, Mali |
| ◉ Praia, Cape Verde | ◉ Nouakchott, Mauritania |
| ◉ N'Djamena, Chad | ◉ Niamey, Niger |
| ◉ Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire | ◉ Abuja, Nigeria |
| ◉ Banjul, Gambia | ◉ Dakar, Senegal |
| ◉ Accra, Ghana | ◉ Freetown, Sierra Leone |
| ◉ Conakry, Guinea | ◉ Lomé, Togo |
| ◉ Bissau, Guinea-Bissau | |

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